DC COMICS
THE NEW 52!
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NIGHTWING
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SAIKO KILLER!
EDDY BARROWS
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dccomics.com
RATED T TEEN
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GOTHAM CITY--
--CURRENT VENUE OF HALY'S CIRCUS
Sopping wet, ribs on fire, a bladed guy trying to kill me...
...and it's not even Friday yet.
YOU KNOW, THAT'S A REALLY NICE SUIT YOU'VE GOT THERE.
IS IT INSULATED?
'CAUSE MINE IS.
WHAT--

ARGHH!
How could you not love this town?
HALY'S WISH
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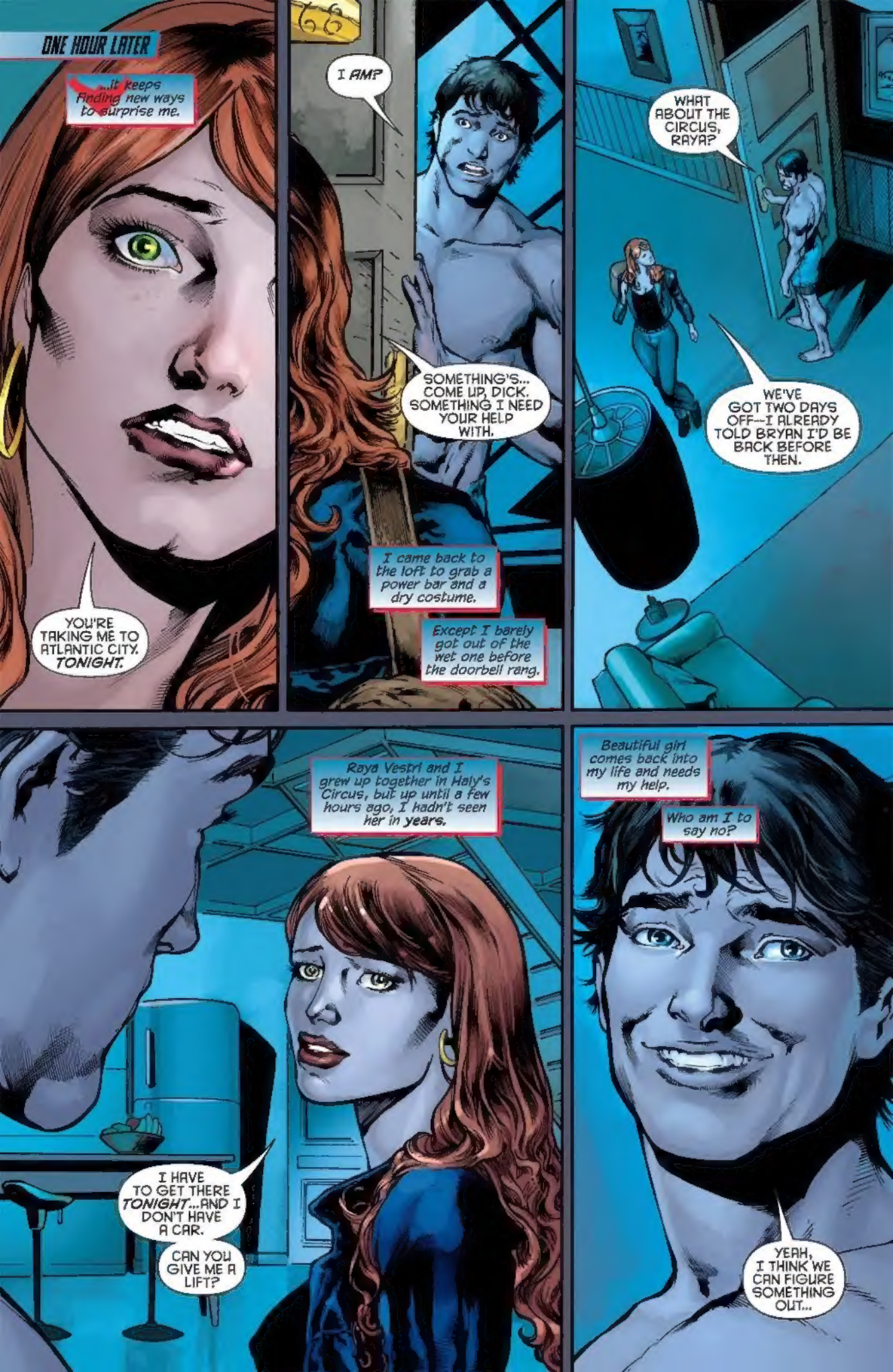
NIGHTWING CREATED BY MARV WOLFMAN AND GEORGE PEREZ

Whole costume's wired to deliver a 150 thousand-volt shock.
It's a one-time charge, but it should have been enough to put this guy down--whoever he is.
IF WE'RE GONNA TAKE THIS DANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL, BUDDY, YOU GOTTA AT LEAST GIVE ME A NAME.
I MEAN, HOW ELSE AM I GOING TO COME UP WITH SNAPPY NEW--
WHOOP!
KEEP... TALKING, "HERO--"
--IT MAKES KILLING YOU WORTHWHILE.
Keep forgetting-- his actual target is me as Dick Grayson, not Nightwing.
Apparently Grayson is "Gotham's fiercest killer."
UHN!
Which, you know, is news to me.

Oh no...
KA-BOOOOOM
Gotta get the people out of the car, even if it means the killer gets away.
FWIP FWIP
KERASH
KERASH

Come on, Grayson--pull...
UHNN!
OH, THANK...THANK YOU...
No sign of the assassin.
Which means, at the very least, the next few days will be interesting.
I should know better by now--just when I think I've got Gotham City figured out...


ONE HOUR LATER
...it keeps finding new ways to surprise me.
YOU'RE TAKING ME TO ATLANTIC CITY. TONIGHT.
I AM?
SOMETHING'S... COME UP, DICK. SOMETHING I NEED YOUR HELP WITH.
I came back to the loft to grab a power bar and a dry costume.
Except I barely got out of the wet one before the doorbell rang.
WHAT ABOUT THE CIRCUS, RAYA?
WE'VE GOT TWO DAYS OFF--I ALREADY TOLD BRYAN I'D BE BACK BEFORE THEN.
Raya Vestri and I grew up together in Haly's Circus, but up until a few hours ago, I hadn't seen her in years.
I HAVE TO GET THERE TONIGHT...AND I DON'T HAVE A CAR.
CAN YOU GIVE ME A LIFT?
Beautiful girl comes back into my life and needs my help.
Who am I to say no?
YEAH, I THINK WE CAN FIGURE SOMETHING OUT...

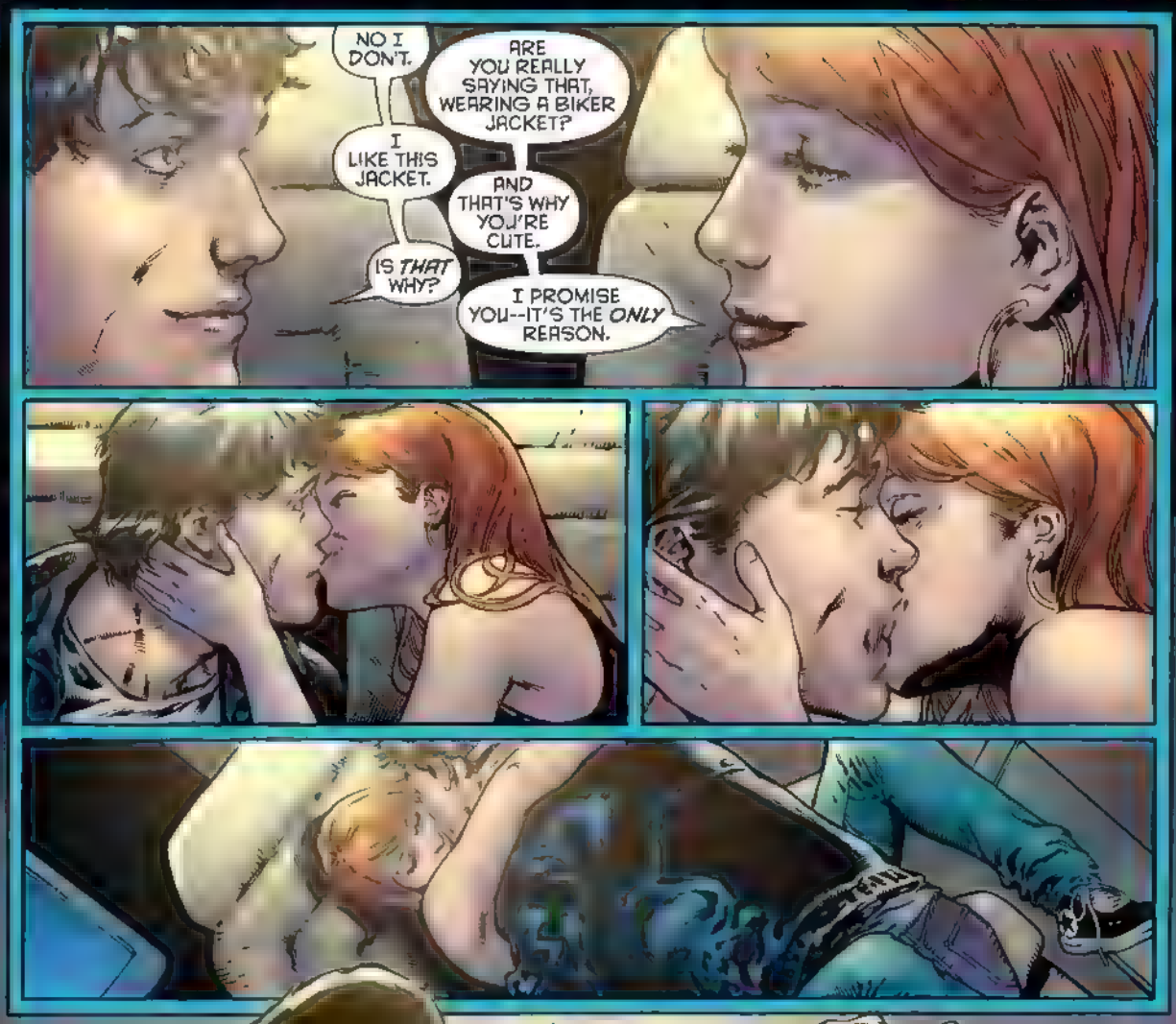
THIS...
...ISN'T *QUITE* WHAT I WAS EXPECTING.
HEY, WHAT'S FASTER THAN A JET?
AND "YOUR BOSS" DOESN'T MIND YOU "BORROWING" HIS...
WELL, HE WOULDN'T BE *BRUCE WAYNE* IF HE DIDN'T HAVE MORE THAN ONE.
IS THIS YOU TRYING TO "IMPRESS" ME?
HEY, YOU SAID YOU NEEDED TO GET THERE FAST. *THIS* IS FAST.
SO ARE YOU GOING TO TELL ME WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?
IT'S... COMPLICATED, DICK.
I'M GOOD WITH "COMPLICATED." TRY ME.
MR. HALY WANTS TO SEE *YOU*.

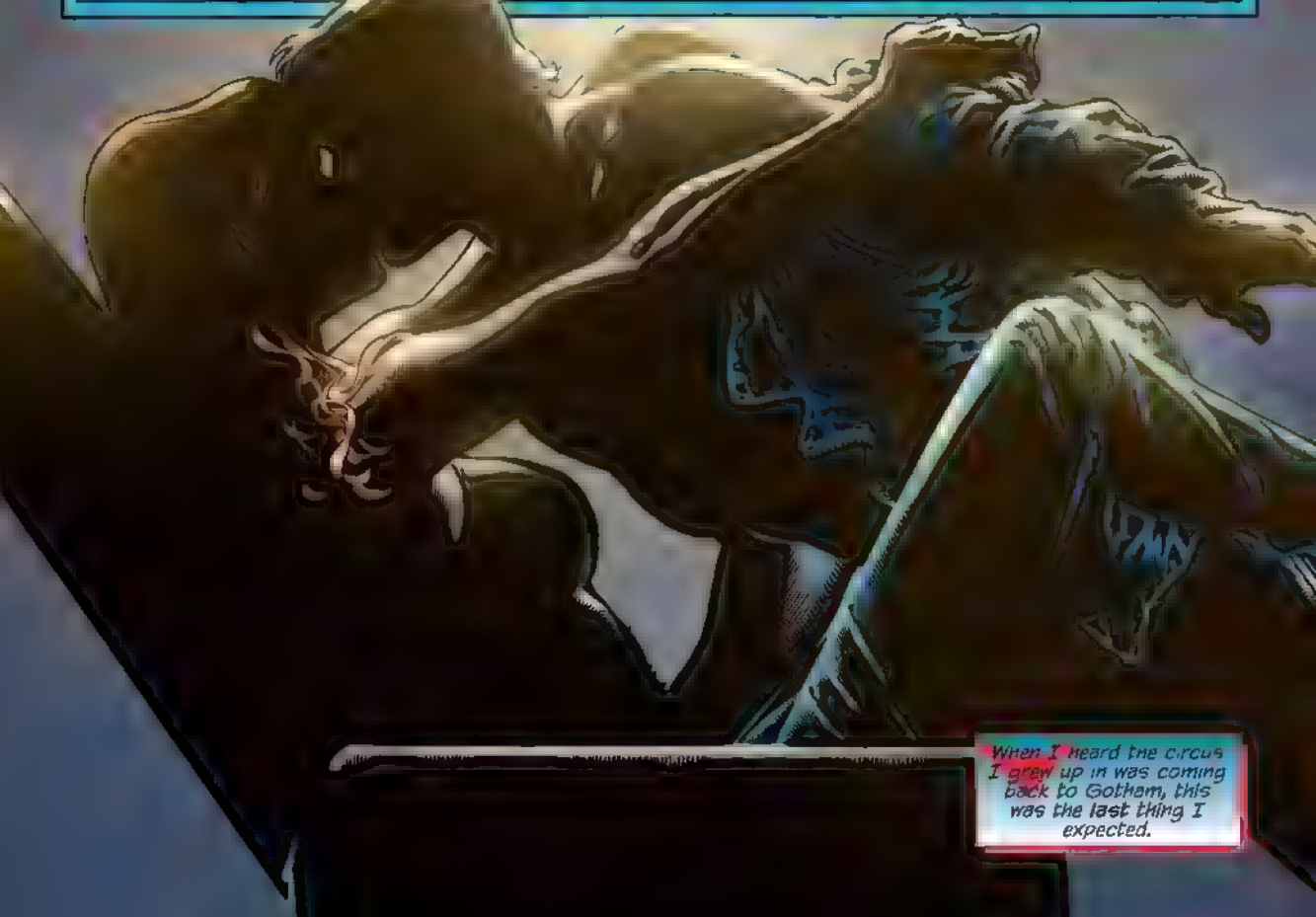
I DON'T FOLLOW.
I TOLD HIM YOU'D COME IF HE JUST *ASKED*, BUT HE SAID HE COULDN'T *RISK* IT.
THAT IT *HAD* TO BE *TONIGHT*.
WAIT, ALL THIS... IS FOR ME TO *TALK* TO MR. HALY?
I'VE GOT A PHONE, RAYA--I COULD HAVE *CALLED* HIM.
IT HAS TO BE IN PERSON, DICK...
...HE'S DYING.

THE OUTSKIRTS OF ATLANTIC CITY, NEW JERSEY
I show up at the spot I'm supposed to meet Mr. Haly, and I can't help but smile.
He used to tell me about this place--the "family" warehouse.
"You been in business as long as us, kid, you end up holding onto a few things..."
HELLO? MR. HALY?
ARE YOU--
POPCORN
But I guess I didn't realize what he meant by "a few."
WHOA...

MR. HALY...?
SORRY HOW THIS ALL CAME TOGETHER, DICK E, BUT I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME. DAMN TUMOR'S EATING ME FROM THE INSIDE...
...AND I NEED TO MAKE SURE YOU HAVE THIS BEFORE THE CANCER FINISHES THE JOB..
THE DEED .. TO EVERYTHING ON THE ROAD, AND EVERYTHING HERE. IT'S ALL... YOURS, KID.
WHAT? MR HALY, I CAN'T--
CAN'T WHY? BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO BUSY AS A BIG-TIME "HERO" NOW?
WHAT? HOW DO YOU KNOW...?
I WATCHED YOU GROW UP AND LEARN HOW TO FLY, K DDO. THE OTHERS MAY NOT KNOW WHAT YOU DO NOW. BUT I ALWAYS HAVE
AND I KNOW IT'S NOT WHO YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE ESPECIALLY SINCE ALL THIS WAS GOING TO BE YOUR PARENTS'.
YOU WERE GIVING THEM THE CIRCUS?
I'VE ..MADE A LOT OF MISTAKES OVER THE YEARS, DICK. AND I HAVE A LOT OF REGRETS.
BUT MY BIGGEST S WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU.
HALY'S IS PART OF WHO YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE...WHAT YOUR FAMILY WAS SUPPOSED TO BE. WHICH S WHY WHEN I'M GONE...

"...YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO BE THERE."
HEY...
YOU OKAY?
YEAH, JUST... PROCESSING.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T TELL YOU SOONER. I WANTED TO...
...BUT WE GOT ON THE PLANE AND ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS HOW MUCH HAS CHANGED IN THE LAST FEW YEARS--HOW DIFFERENT EVERYTHING IS FOR YOU NOW. I KIND OF PANICKED.
YOU THINK THINGS ARE DIFFERENT WITH ME?
WE'RE SITTING ON YOUR PLANE, DICK...
NO, I MEAN...DO YOU THINK I'M DIFFERENT?
I DON'T KNOW--YOU STILL HAVE TERRIBLE TASTE IN CLOTHES.


NO I DON'T.
ARE YOU REALLY SAYING THAT, WEARING A BIKER JACKET?
I LIKE THIS JACKET.
AND THAT'S WHY YOU'RE CUTE.
IS THAT WHY?
I PROMISE YOU--IT'S THE ONLY REASON.


When I heard the circus I grew up in was coming back to Gotham, this was the last thing I expected.

Raya...Mr. Haly...me involved with the circus again...
...my head is already swimming.
Everything feels familiar and different...all at the same time.
I guess that's the thing about revisiting your past.
It's easy for it to become your present.
CALL FOR YOU--GOT ROUTED UP HERE.
But is that such a bad thing?
HELLO?
...
HELLO? WHO IS THIS?
I'M NOT NORMALLY ONE TO GIVE MY NAME TO A PERSON I'M ABOUT TO KILL...BUT I'M WILLING TO MAKE AN EXCEPTION FOR A CERTAIN "HERO."
That voice...
YOU CAN CALL ME SAIKO... IF I CAN CALL YOU NIGHTWING.
YOUR INVOLVEMENT MAKES A LOT MORE SENSE NOW.
He knows.
ESPECIALLY AFTER HALY TOLD ME EVERYTHING. BATMAN, ROBIN, NIGHTWING...
THOUGH IN HIS DEFENSE--
-PAIN IS QUITE A POWERFUL MOTIVATOR.
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
FOR YOU TO WATCH ME KILL THE OLD MAN, DICK... RIGHT NOW.
THAT IS, OF COURSE, UNLESS YOU CAN STOP ME?

The pilot turns the plane around and I tell Raya that Mr. Haly has one last thing he needs to go over.
I tell her it won't take long--that I'll be quick.
Because this time...
ROUND TWO, "HERO."

...it's not all business.
CRAK
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
UHN!
Explosions in an old warehouse-- great.

Need to settle this fast and find Mr. Haly...
NO QUIPS THIS TIME?
NO WITTY BANTER?
GOOD.
If I'm remembering the layout right from earlier, there should be a back office somewhere through here...
Bingo.
Hey there... -cough- kiddo...
OH, MAN...
Sorry... told him who... you are, Dick...
Saiko really did a number on him. Need to get him out of here before--
UGH!
...before the whole place burns up.

ARGHH!
YOU KNOW THE REAL SHAME OF IT ALL, GRAYSON, IS HOW CLUELESS YOU ACTUALLY ARE.
FOR SOMEONE WHO'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE FIERCEST--
YEAH, YEAH-- FIERCEST KILLER IN ALL OF GOTHAM. I HEARD YOU BEFORE.
OOF!
HERE'S A NEWS FLASH FOR YA, "PSY-CHO"--
PTT
--THAT'S NEVER BEEN ME.
FA-KOOMBLLLEE

Uh oh...
CREEEEEEEEEAKKK
TIME TO GO, MR. HALY!
Outside, I can already hear the sirens...
H-how bad...does it look?
THE FIRE TRUCKS ARE ALMOST HERE. YOU'RE GONNA MAKE IT...

Which might be more than Saiko can say.
I keep my eyes on the fire, looking for any sign that he got out. But there's nothing.
S-sorry, Dick...so sorry... It's all my fault...
They're... trying to kill us because of the secret...
WHAT? YOU KNOW WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?
About what the circus...really is. The answers...in the heart of it, kiddo...
...answers in... the heart...
NEXT ISSUE: ON THE ROAD AGAIN